

**To:** Fisher, Timothy[tjfisher@blm.gov]  
**From:** Govan, Jihadda - FS  
**Sent:** 2017-06-02T12:10:59-04:00  
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**Subject:** FW: Documents for the Sand to Snow NM  
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Executive Summary S2S NM Review May 2017 jfw 2017 05 31 - Version II.docx  
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I sent this out yesterday. I'm sure it's too late. I forgot that Mark wasn't coming back in until next week. I feel pretty rotten. Hope your week's end is better.

J.



**Ms. Jihadda Govan**  
**Monument Manager**

**Forest Service**  
San Bernardino National Forest, Sand to Snow National Monument

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Caring for the land and serving people

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**From:** Govan, Jihadda - FS  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 01, 2017 2:55 PM  
**To:** 'Conley, Mark' <mconley@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Weigand James F <jweigand@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Documents for the Sand to Snow NM

Mark,

Here ya go! I'm going to go de-compress now. If you need me to come back into the office and fix something, please let me know. The only thing that needs to be included is the public envisioning summary. I sent it to you in a separate e-mail It's up to you to add.

I will have my cell phone with me so if you need something, please let me know. I reviewed these documents but I wouldn't trust my eye right now.

Thank you and Jim for everything!

J.



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**Monument Manager**

**Forest Service**  
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## **Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

### **Key Information about the Sand to Snow National Monument**

Sand to Snow National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation 9396 on February 12, 2016. Prior to designation, the area was managed by the BLM Palm Springs South Coast and Barstow Field Offices and U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest, and continues to be following designation. The BLM manages for multiple use within the Monument (hunting, fishing, recreation, grazing, and other valid existing rights), while protecting the vast array of historic and scientific resources identified in the Proclamation and providing opportunities for scientific study of those resources. The resources identified in the Proclamation include cultural/heritage resources comprising of rock art, grinding stones, evidence of human habitation, old cabins, cattle paths, mine shafts, early European settler refuse deposits, and building remnants. Biological resources include bighorn sheep, mountain lion, Arroyo toad, desert tortoise, mule deer, the extensive year round freshwater marsh habitat of Big Morongo Canyon, and endemic plant species. Geologic resources include nearly 2 billion year old rocks from the Proterozoic Eon, hundreds of springs that arise from South Fork Meadows, the headwaters of the Santa Ana River; and two branches of the world famous San Andreas Fault. Overall, multiple use activities are allowed in Sand to Snow National Monument that are compatible with the protection of resources and objects identified in the Presidential Proclamation. Multiple use activities are subject to decisions made in current and future BLM resource management planning efforts which include public participation. National Monuments and other conservation areas managed by the BLM continue to allow for multiple uses according to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (depending on proclamation language).

### **Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation**

Prior to the monument designation, representatives from the Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management met on October 13, 2015, with tribal representatives from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Death Valley Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe, and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians to discuss tribal concerns and opportunities of the proposed monument designation. Long legislative history related to the 1980 California Desert Conservation Plan, and four public listening sessions during the summer of 2016.

### **Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan**

Public scoping for the Sand to Snow National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) has not yet been initiated. The first opportunity for public comment about developing the RMP for the National Monument post-designation will be the DOI Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment. The date for the Notice has not been determined yet.

### **Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation**

After the designation of Sand to Snow National Monument, San Bernardino National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management California Desert District hosted jointly a series of public workshops in July 2016. Four workshops took place in communities adjacent to the National Monument: Yucaipa (July 13), Big Bear (July 14), Yucca Valley (July 19), and Desert Hot Springs (July 21), California. Each workshop conducted the same set of activities, focused on providing basic information about the newly designated Sand to Snow National Monument and requesting information from workshop participants. Press releases and fliers were used to promote these workshops to the general public.

Sand to Snow National Monument is a well-known and popular destination for many recreational activities including horseback riding, backpacking, rock hounding/mineral collecting, viewing historic sites/areas, target shooting, photography, environmental/outdoor classroom education, wildflower viewing, hiking/biking/running/walking, off-highway vehicle use on designated routes, nature study, picnicking, hunting, and wildlife. There is no oil, coal, or gas potential, there is some opportunity for grazing per existing BLM policy. The BLM has worked with neighboring communities, organizations, and agencies on numerous stewardship projects, community events, environmental/outdoor education, and outreach efforts since designation.

### **Summary of Activities in Area for Five years Preceding Pre-Designation**

During the preceding five years new BLM management actions on public lands did not take place inside the present boundary of the Sand to Snow National Monument. Fire suppression activities were, by far, the most impactful of activities on the Sand to Snow National Monument.

### **Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation**

Available peer-reviewed information and analysis of the economic impact from the designation of the Sand to Snow National Monument is not available. No other study is known to be underway. The BLM has not commissioned an economic study.

Employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics or from the California Employment Development Department for communities adjacent to the National Monument are not available for immediately before and subsequently since designation of the National Monument.

**Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation**

There have been no boundary adjustments since Designation, February 12, 2016

**Sand to Snow National Monument: Data Related to Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

**1. Documents Requested**

**a. Resource Management Plans/Land Use Plans**

Sand to Snow National Monument (Sand to Snow National Monument) has not yet initiated a Monument Management Plan (MMP). For the BLM portion of the National Monument, the following planning documents apply to all or a portion of the National Monument in the interim:

- i. 1980 California Desert Conservation Plan (CDCA) as amended through 1989:  
[https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/66949/82080/96344/CDCA\\_Plan.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/66949/82080/96344/CDCA_Plan.pdf)
- ii. 2002 Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley and Final Environmental Impact Statement (for BLM National Monument Lands in the Whitewater, Desert Hot Springs, and Seven Palms Valley 24K quads, and parts of the Catclaw Flat, Morongo Valley, and Yucca Valley South 24K quads):  
[https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName\\_dispatchToPatternPage&currentPageId=96939](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName_dispatchToPatternPage&currentPageId=96939)
- iii. 2005 West Mojave Plan Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Plan:  
[https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName\\_renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=72544&dctmId\\_0b0003e880e36812](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName_renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=72544&dctmId_0b0003e880e36812)
- iv. 2016 Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Final Plan and Proposed EIS:  
<http://www.drecp.org/finaldrecp/>

**b. Record of Decision**

The Sand to Snow National Monument does not yet have a Record of Decision for a Monument Management Plan. For the BLM portion of the National Monument, the following planning documents apply in the interim:

- i. 2002 Record of Decision for California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley:  
[https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/67036/82296/97275/Coachella\\_ROD\\_12-27-02.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/67036/82296/97275/Coachella_ROD_12-27-02.pdf)
- ii. 2006 West Mojave Plan Amendment Record of Decision:  
[https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/72544/97511/117667/wemo\\_rod\\_3-06.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/72544/97511/117667/wemo_rod_3-06.pdf)
- iii. 2016 Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Record of Decision  
[http://www.drecp.org/finaldrecp/rod/DRECP\\_BLM\\_LUPA\\_ROD.pdf](http://www.drecp.org/finaldrecp/rod/DRECP_BLM_LUPA_ROD.pdf)

**c. Public Scoping Documents**

i. Public scoping has not yet been initiated for the Monument Management Plan. The first public comment period post-designation associated with Sand to Snow National Monument will be the DOI Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment.

d. Presidential Proclamation

i. Presidential Proclamation 9396 of February 12, 2016  
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/12/presidential-proclamation-establishment-sand-snow-national-monument>

2. Information on activities permitted at the Monument, including annual levels of activity from the **date of designation (February 12, 2016) to the present**

a. Recreation - annual visits to site

- i. A wide variety of outdoor recreation activities are available to visitors to the Sand to Snow National Monument including: horseback riding, backpacking, rock hounding/mineral collecting, viewing historic sites/areas, target shooting, photography, environmental/outdoor classroom education, wildflower viewing, hiking/biking/running/walking, off-highway vehicle use on designated routes, nature study, picnicking, hunting, and wildlife.
- ii. The BLM uses the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) to report visitor use. Complete information is not yet available for most of FY17. Full reporting for annual fiscal year 2017 visitation will not be available until the end of September 2017; some visitor information is provided in this document.
- iii. While specific visitation information to the Sand to Snow National Monument is not available through RMIS at this time, the Palm Springs South Coast Field Office confirms that requests for overnight camping at the Whitewater Preserve area by visitors to the Sand to Snow National Monument who hike the Pacific Crest Trail, have increased since Monument designation. Visitation to the Black Lava Buttes unit of the Sand to Snow National Monument, a scenic destination located near Joshua Tree National Park, increased since monument designation.
- iv. The Big Morongo Canyon unit of the S2SNM saw a slight increase in visitation since Monument designation than in previous years. Included below are visitor numbers from the Big Morongo Canyon unit:

2016 - 66,675 visitors

2017 - 45,000 visitors (partial 10/01/2016 to 05/15/2017)

vi. The Whitewater Preserve unit of the Sand to Snow National Monument saw a slight decline in visitor days associated with hunting since Monument designations:

2016 - 139 hunters (55 hunt parties)  
 2017 - No data yet available

b. Energy - annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any)

- i. There are no producing oil and gas wells and no coal developments in Sand to Snow National Monument. While public lands in the Sand to Snow National Monument are now withdrawn from mineral leasing, valid existing rights are protected under the Proclamation. Therefore, development on existing leases can occur.
- ii. No authorized federal oil and gas leases are within the boundary of the Sand to Snow National Monument.
- iii. No authorized or pending Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) are associated with these leases.
- iv. No renewable energy rights-of-way are present within the boundary of the Sand to Snow National Monument.
- v. Three (3) small distribution lines are present within the boundaries of the Sand to Snow National Monument. No major transmission lines are within the boundaries. The Proclamation allows for new, upgrades, and expansions of transmission and telecommunication infrastructure within Sand to Snow National Monument.
- vi. To date, no new requests for energy transmission or energy generation projects have been proposed in the boundaries of Sand to Snow National Monument.

c. **Minerals - annual mineral production on site**

- i. One active locatable mining operation, California Blue Mine, Gemstone, CACA 52938, is in Sand to Snow National Monument. Production reports are not required of the proponent to BLM. As of at least 2012, no mineral material production had occurred (Hunerlach 2012).
- ii. Nine (9) mining claims associated with three mines located within or adjacent to the Monument were filed prior to designation of the Monument. Each of these is a 20-acre placer claim and includes: (1) the Irishman consisting of 7 claims located on December 16, 1980; (2) the single claim Wing KO, located on July 10, 2010; and (3) the single claim Gentry Escape located on April 20, 2015. All of these are 20-acre placer claims. No production data are known for these mining claims.
- iii. While public lands in the Monument are now withdrawn from mineral exploration under the General Mining Act of 1872, valid existing rights are protected under the Monument proclamation.

d. **Timber - annual timber production on site (in board-feet, CCF, or similar measure)**

Active timber production does not occur in Sand to Snow National Monument. Merchantable timber is found within the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Timber harvesting or tree removal is not allowed in wilderness area under the Wilderness Act of 1964. Most of the BLM portion of the Sand to Snow National Monument lies in lower elevations that support woody vegetation, such as California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), that would support artisanal woodcutting or firewood. Due to the short time, it is not possible to calculate authorized annual firewood production since Monument designation. Collection of forest products, as well as firewood for personal noncommercial use is allowed under the Proclamation outside of wilderness. No woodcutting is authorized in San Gorgonio Wilderness.

e. **Grazing Annual grazing on site (AUMs permitted and sold)**

No BLM-permitted livestock grazing allotments currently exist within the Monument.

f. **Subsistence - participation rates for subsistence activities occurring on site (fishing, hunting, gathering); quantities harvested; other quantifiable information where available**

- i. Subsistence activities are those that provide the bare essentials for living: food, water, and shelter. The Federal Subsistence Management Program provides opportunities for subsistence way of life in Alaska on federal public lands and waters. There are no formal subsistence programs outside of Alaska. Sand to Snow National Monument provides for collection by Native Americans of traditional medicinal and ceremonial plants, edible plants, herbs, and materials for crafting traditional items. The BLM California and the US Forest Service Region 5 have a common gathering policy with tribes that ensures traditional practitioners have access to plants. No gathering permit is required for Native Americans. BLM policy also emphasizes local collaboration, implementation, and issue resolution.
- ii. The total number of tribal members who have used Sand to Snow National Monument for traditional hunting or fishing activities is unknown. The BLM does not collect information related to the number of licensed hunters/fishermen. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife collects these data.
- g. **Cultural - list of cultural uses/values for site; number of sites; other quantifiable information where available.**
  - i. On October 13, 2015, the BLM convened a meeting with tribal groups recognized as having an ancestral connection to the area within or adjacent to the Sand to Snow National Monument. Also in attendance were the following: Deputy Interior Secretary, USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, BLM California Desert District managers, and representatives from the offices of Senator Diane Feinstein, Congressman Paul Cook, and San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the dialogue with tribes regarding California Desert Monuments proposed in legislation from Senator Feinstein and Congressman Cook. The following represented tribes expressed appreciation for being included in the discussion as well as for the proposed designations: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe; the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Death Valley Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. Other tribes associated with Sand to Snow National Monument are the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the Soboba Band of Mission Indians.
  - ii. Tribes use the lands within Sand to Snow National Monument for ceremonies and visitation of sacred sites. Traditions of gathering medicinal and ceremonial plants, edible plants, herbs, and materials for crafting items such as footwear, are still practiced by tribal members.
  - iii. Dozens of recorded archaeological sites within Sand to Snow National Monument. The majority of these sites are prehistoric (predating the 1800s). These prehistoric sites include pottery, stone tool (lithic) scatters, remains of cooking features (hearths), rock shelters, prehistoric roads, and 1,700 petroglyphs and pictographs. An important prehistoric travel corridor between the San Bernardino Mountains, interior deserts, and the California Coastal regions is also found within Sand to Snow National Monument. Known historic resources include cattle ranching/grazing related items such as structures, foundations, infrastructure such as corrals, wells, check-dams, and fencing. Bonnie Bell, a known 1850s stagecoach stop, was located in Whitewater Canyon. Other historic resources include those related to mining, evidence of which are found in the form of old cabins, mine shafts, prospecting pits, and refuse deposits.

iv. The BLM has not completely surveyed the Monument for cultural resources. The total percentage of Sand to Snow National Monument that has been surveyed for cultural resources is 7.2 percent.

**3. Information on activities occurring during the 5 years prior to designation**

**a. Recreation - annual visits to site**

The BLM uses the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) to report visitor use. But for this document, the information is provided in a simple format.

- The Big Morongo Canyon unit of the Sand to Snow National Monument has seen a slight increase in visitation since Monument designation compared to previous years. Included below are visitor numbers from the Big Morongo Canyon unit:
  - 2012 - 25,247 visitors
  - 2013 - 35,565 visitors
  - 2014 - 44,177 visitors
  - 2015 - 66,675 visitors

i. The Whitewater Preserve unit of the Sand to Snow National Monument saw a slight decline in visitor days associated with hunting:

- 2014 - 36 hunters (14 hunt parties)
- 2015 - 152 hunters (50 hunt parties)

**b. Energy - annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any)**

- i. No energy production from coal, oil & gas occurred during the five years prior to designation (2011-2015).
- ii. No energy transmission infrastructure was constructed within the Sand to Snow National Monument during the five years prior to designation. Three (3) existing power transmission lines held by Southern California Edison (SCE) intersect the Sand to Snow National Monument. SCE constructed the lines between 1955 and 1970.

**c. Minerals - annual mineral production on site**

No commercial mineral production occurred during the five years prior to Monument designation. One (1) open active locatable mining operation was present in the Sand to Snow National Monument. Production reports were not required of proponent (California Blue Mine, Gemstone, CACA 52938) to BLM.

**d. Timber - annual timber production on site (in board-feet, CCF, or similar measure)**

No commercial harvests for merchantable timber occurred in the five-years from 2011 through 2015.

**e. Grazing - annual grazing on site (AUMs permitted and sold)**

No BLM-permitted livestock grazing allotments have been present within the current boundary of the Monument for more than a decade since the Whitewater Canyon allotment phase out.

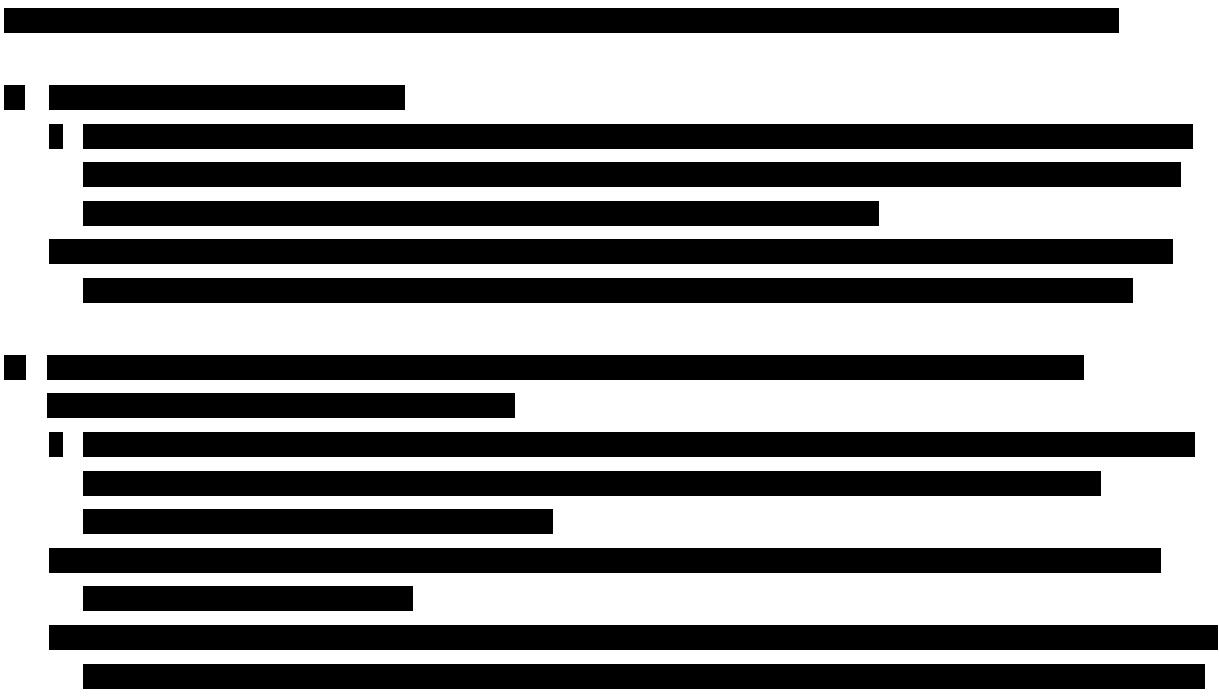
f. Subsistence - participation rates for subsistence activities occurring on site (fishing, hunting, gathering); quantities harvested; other quantifiable information where available

- i. Subsistence activities are those that provide the bare essentials for living: food, water, and shelter. The Federal Subsistence Management Program provides opportunities for subsistence way of life in Alaska on federal public lands and waters. There are no formal subsistence programs outside of Alaska. Prior to the designation of the Sand to Snow National Monument, BLM did and still does provide for the collection, by Native Americans, of medicinal and ceremonial plants, edible plants, herbs, and materials for crafting traditional items. Prior to the designation of the Sand to Snow National Monument, BLM California had, and still has, a gathering policy with tribes that ensures traditional practitioners have access to plants. Gathering permits were not required for Native Americans. BLM policy, then as now, also emphasizes local collaboration, implementation, and issue resolution.
- ii. Prior to the designation of the Sand to Snow National Monument, the total number of tribal members that have used portions of the BLM lands for traditional hunting or fishing activities took place. BLM does not collect information related to the number of licensed hunters/fishermen. This information is collected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

g. Cultural - list of cultural uses/values for site; number of sites; other quantifiable information where available

- i. See response to 2.g.

4. Information on activities that likely would have occurred annually from the date of designation to the present if the Monument had not been designated. (b) (5) - DPP



(b) (5) - DPP

5. **Changes to boundaries - dates and changes in size**

There have been no changes to Monument boundaries since Monument designation.

6. **Public Outreach prior to Designation - outreach activities conducted and opportunities for public comment**

The public process preceding Sand to Snow National Monument designation is outlined in the document Workshop Results.

7. **Terms of Designation**

Refer to the Proclamation for the terms of designation. No additional actions (e.g., legislated land exchanges or Congressional budget provisions, etc.) have affected the terms of Monument designation since the Presidential proclamation of the National Monument.

Table 1. List of National Monuments Included in Review (per Dol Press Release dated May 5, 2017)

National Monument	Location	Managing Agency
Basin and Range	Nevada	BLM
Bears Ears	Utah	BLM, USFS
Berryessa Snow Mountain	California	USFS, BLM
Canyons of the Ancients	Colorado	BLM
Carizzo Plain	California	BLM
Cascade Siskiyou	Oregon	#N/A
Craters of the Moon	Idaho	NPS, BLM
Giant Sequoia	California	USFS
Gold Butte	Nevada	BLM
Grand Canyon-Parashant	Arizona	BLM, NPS
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Utah	BLM
Hanford Reach	Washington	FWS, DOE
Ironwood Forest	Arizona	BLM
Mojave Trails	California	BLM
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks	New Mexico	BLM
Río Grande del Norte	New Mexico	BLM
Sand to Snow	California	BLM, USFS
San Gabriel Mountains	California	USFS
Sonoran Desert	Arizona	BLM
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Montana	BLM
Vermilion Cliffs	Arizona	BLM
Katahdin Woods and Waters	Maine	NPS
Marianas Trench	CNMI/Pacific Ocean	FWS
Northeast Canyons and Seamounts	Atlantic Ocean	NOAA, FWS
Pacific Remote Islands	Pacific Ocean	FWS
Papahānaumokuākea	Hawai'i/Pacific Ocean	NOAA, FWS
Rose Atoll	American Sāmoa/Pacific Ocean	FWS

**New Information Requested on Executive Order on the Review  
of Designations Under the Antiquities Act**

**BLM Responses to Additional Questions for Sand to Snow National Monument**

a) Any legislative language, including legislation in appropriations bills

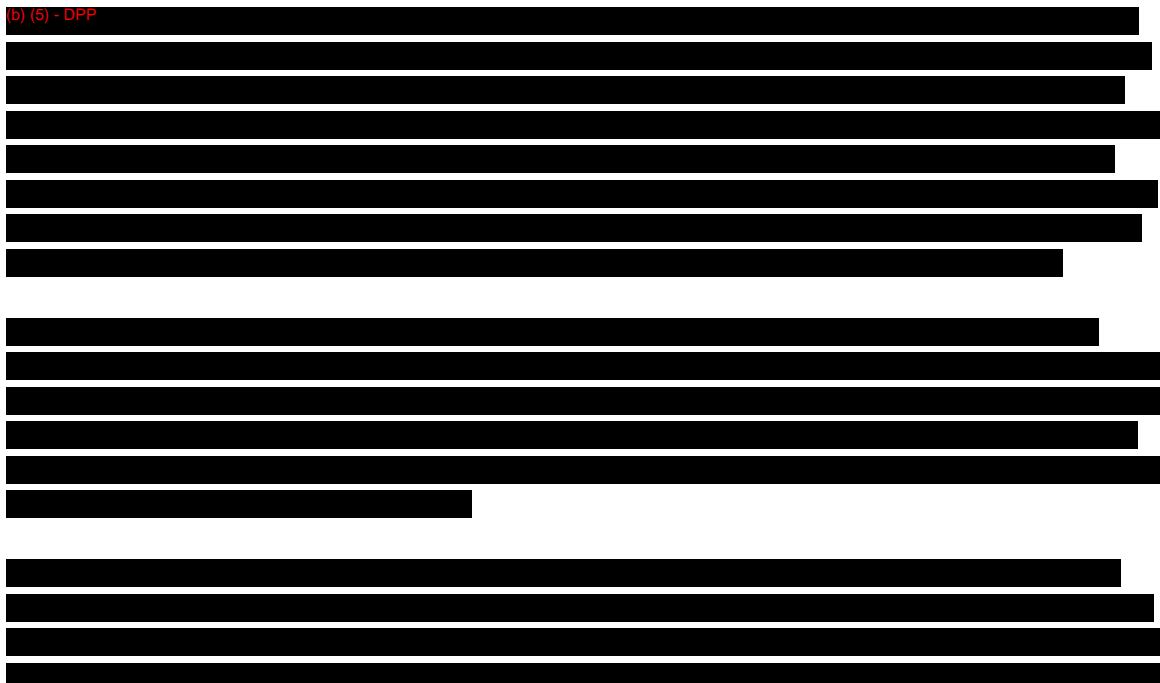
On December 21, 2009, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 (S.2921) to provide for the conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area. Title XIV of the Act covers establishment of the Sand to Snow National Monument.

Subsequently, Senator Feinstein introduced the California Desert Protection Act of 2011 (S. 138) on January 25, 2011, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area. Title XIV of the Act covers establishment of the Sand to Snow National Monument.

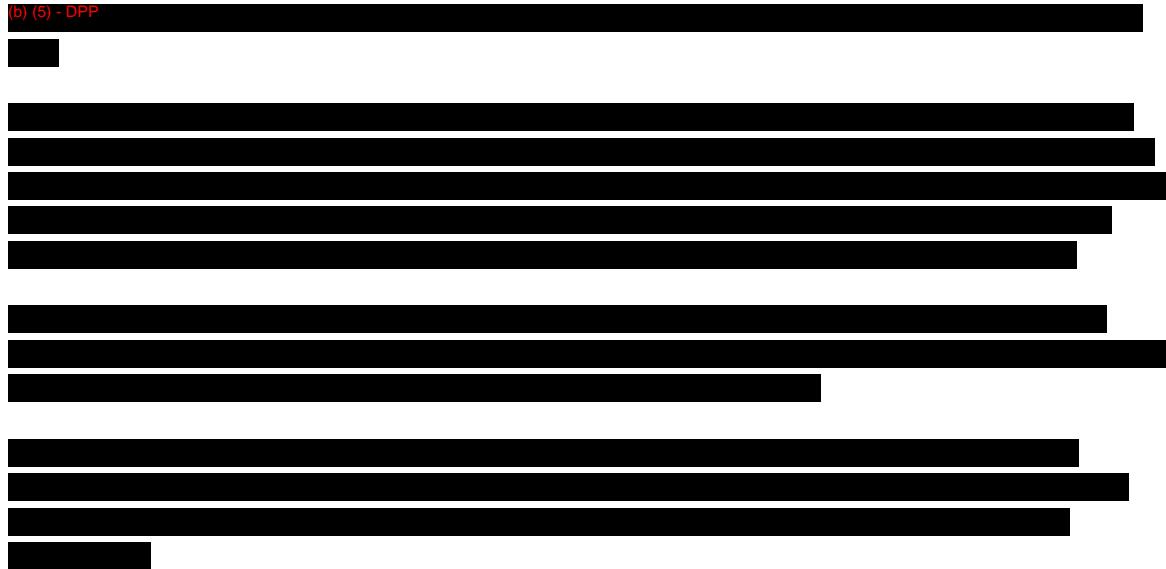
Senator Feinstein introduced the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 (S.414) on February 09, 2009, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area. Title XIV of the Act covers establishment of the Sand to Snow National Monument.

b) Alternative options available for protection of resources applicable at each monument, such as Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Historic Preservation Act and agency-specific laws and regulations.

(b) (5) - DPP



(b) (5) - DPP

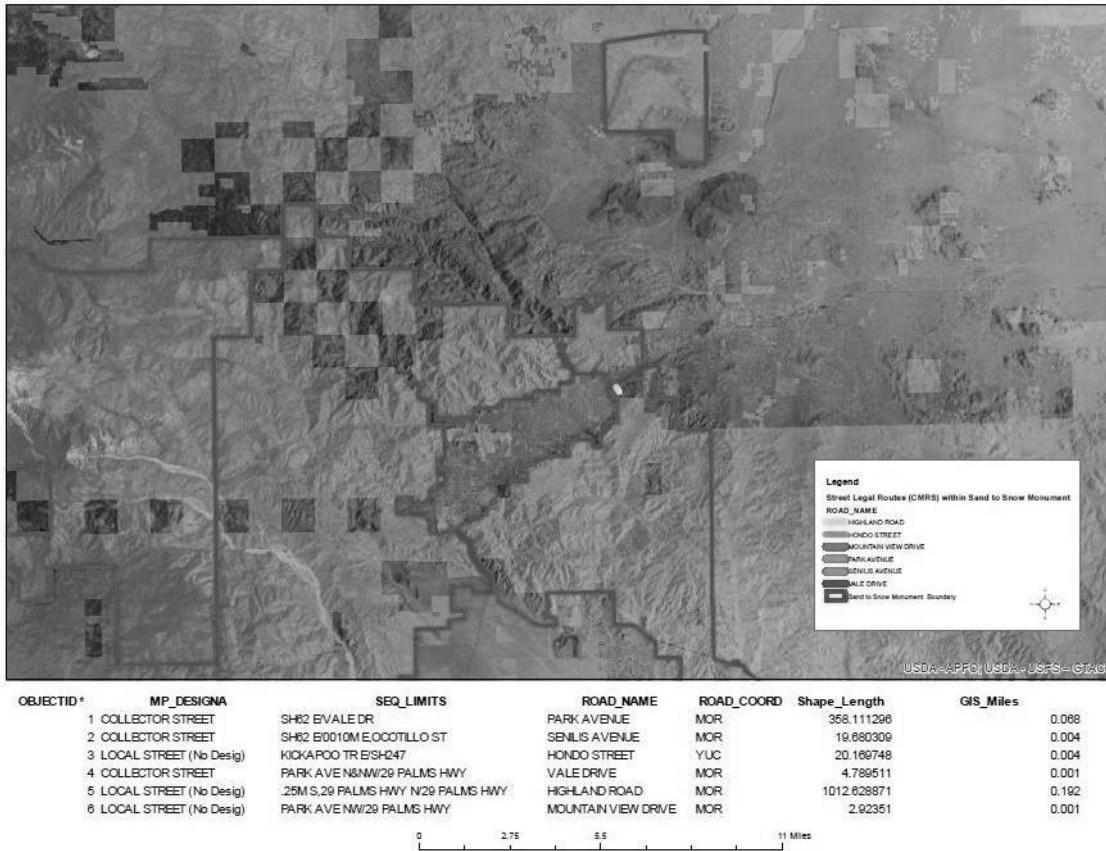


c) Designated wilderness areas (name, acreage), Wilderness Study Areas (name if there is one, acreage, type), and/or areas managed to preserve wilderness or road less characteristics that are not WSAs.

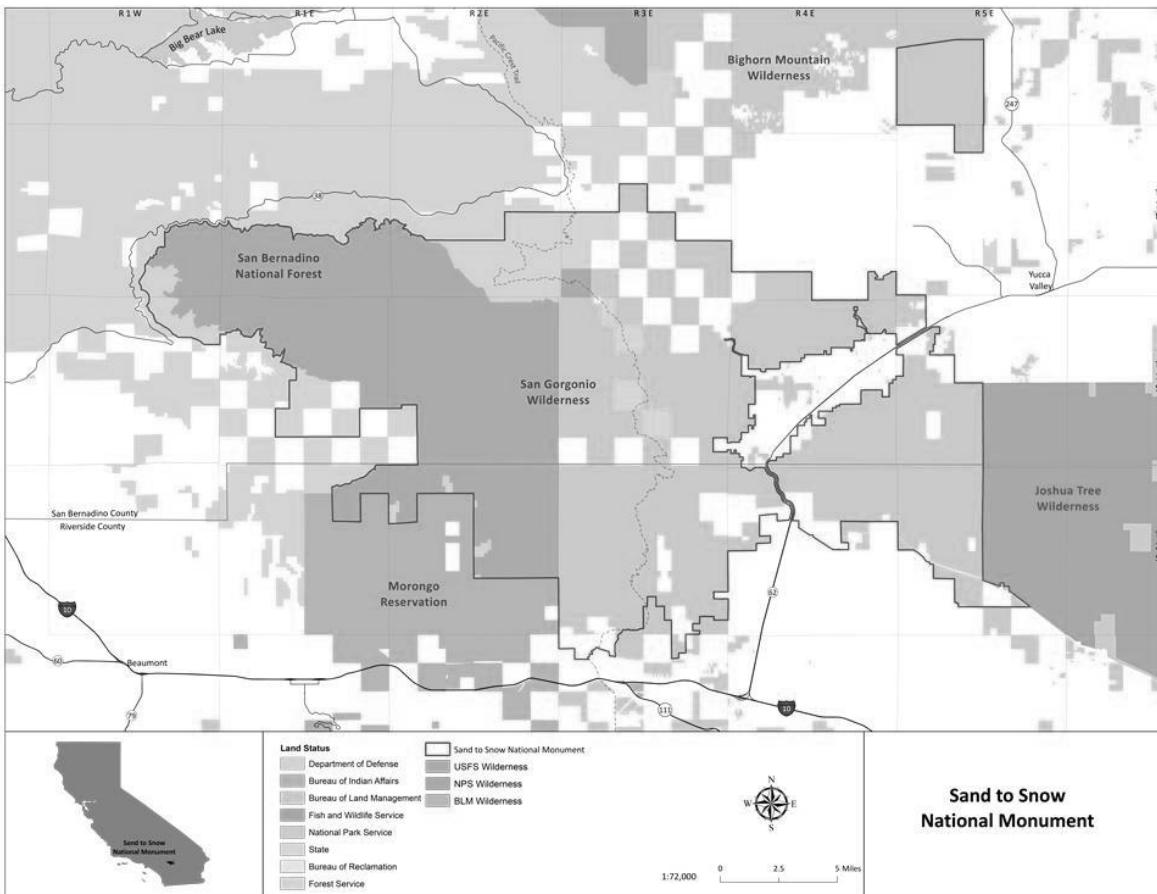
The 96,595-acre San Gorgonio Wilderness, managed by both the US Forest Service and the BLM overlaps the Sand to Snow National Monument. It was originally established as a US Forest Service Wilderness through the authority of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (S. 21) added BLM public lands to the San Gorgonio Wilderness that now total 45,547 acres. All but 1,280 acres of the BLM San Gorgonio Wilderness lands lie inside the Sand to Snow National Monument boundary. No BLM wilderness study areas are part of the Sand to Snow National Monument.

d) Outstanding R.S. 2477 claims within a monument – type of road claimed and history

There are very small sections of several roads within the Sand to Snow National Monument fit into the R.S. 2477 category. Taken together, the total linear measurement is 0.27 miles and lies within the jurisdiction of San Bernardino County, California. See map below.



## e) Map of the Sand to Snow National Monument



f) Cultural or historical resources, particularly Tribal, located near a monument but not within the boundary that might benefit from inclusion in the monument

The Sand to Snow National Monument shares its southwestern boundary with the northern boundary of the Reservation of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The federal agencies managing Sand to Snow National Monument work in concert with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians to conserve and protect cultural/heritage resources and provide resource management technical advice.

## g) Other – general questions or comments

Sand to Snow National Monument is a result of the culmination of efforts between many groups working in cooperation to connect lands from the desert floor to the top of San Gorgonio Mountain, the highest mountain in Southern California. This cooperative effort has now realized a land link which begins in the San Gorgonio Wilderness on its western boundary to its eastern boundary adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park. The establishment of the monument began over 20 years ago through the efforts of the Wildlands Conservancy and many other groups, to

acquire lands that added to the visual appeal, and a buffer for, the San Gorgonio Wilderness. They also sought to acquire additional lands for the benefit of wildlife and people. These land acquisition efforts were accomplished primarily through private donations, and have become part of the gateway into the Sand to Snow National Monument which is no minor accomplishment when one considers the estimated 18.5 million people who live and work in the metropolitan areas of Palm Springs, Riverside, and Los Angeles, California, who now have access to this resource.

The Sand to Snow National Monument is one of over 20 units of the National Conservation Lands System managed by the BLM. These units consist of Historic Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers; Outstanding Natural Areas, Forest Reserves, and National Monuments. While National Conservation Lands may not be as famous as their contemporaries, they do offer a visitors the chance to explore large and unbroken landscapes. These large tracks of natural lands provide a visual opportunity that transports us to an earlier time in our history, and affords a unique perspective of the unique challenges faced by those who came before us.

The BLM mission is to sustain the health diversity and productivity of America's public lands for present and future generations. BLM takes this mission to heart in its management of public lands, which make up 1/10 of the land in the United States and 1/3 of the mineral estate. On an annual \$1 billion dollar budget, BLM generates \$5 billion per year for the federal government through the production of oil, gas, timber, and renewable energy and collection of revenue from grazing and other mineral operations.

Our mission helps us engage with the widest variety of interested parties of any land management agency. National Conservation Lands are evolving lands that responds to the needs of the communities that surround them be it conservation or economic output and the diversity of California's National Monuments reflect this. The Sand to Snow National Monument offers visitors many outdoor recreation experiences to include hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping, and does so through existing and new partnerships with local communities and organizations, creating a distinct conservation framework. This conservation framework is achieved by active engagement with a wide variety of interested parties, which allows BLM to further its multiple-use mission, and encourages participation in land use and management.

National Monuments, indeed National Conservation Lands, managed by BLM, are one of the best deals for the American taxpayer as well as for adjacent communities. In FY2016, National Monuments and National Conservation Areas cost only \$2.73 per acre to manage, compared to the National Park Service cost of \$35.71 per acre. BLM managed National Monuments and National Conservation Areas supported over \$50 in regional economic activity for every acre of land managed. This amounts to \$17 in regional economic contributions for every \$1 of federal funding. It is important to note that National Conservation Lands are a system – promoting visitation to one National Monument will encourage people to discover other National Monuments.

An appreciation and understanding of the history of America is dependent to some extent on our appreciation of the resources that fueled it. It is intimately intertwined with images of majestic

landscapes and historic landmarks, most of which lie within our public lands. These places are our living and visual heritage and is the greatest gift we have to bestow onto future generations. Since its designation, the Sand to Snow National Monument has renewed its commitment to pass on this unique legacy by working with partners to encourage and promote a sense of wonder and appreciation for the outdoors through stewardship projects, outdoor activities, and conducting historic walks and hikes. National Conservation Lands have become ideal places to ignite and foster gratitude of our natural heritage. BLM works in concert with all neighboring communities and remain committed to listening and engaging with the public no matter their perspective.

Sand to Snow National Monument is in its infancy, an exciting yet challenging time, filled with endless opportunity to benefit future generations and communities, in ways known and unknown. So we will move forward, with eyes to the past, while simultaneously weaving a new history for all.

